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LETTER DATED 14 JUNE 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan on the latest Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan, in the districts of Agdam and Agdjabedi, which began on 12 June 1993.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan A. HASSANOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic

At dawn on 12 June, after prolonged and intensive artillery preparation and massed air attacks with Mig-23 and Su-25 operational aircraft and Mi-24 helicopters, the Armenian army began an offensive in the direction of Agdam and Agjabedi districts of Azerbaijan. The offensive by the Armenian army made use of tanks, armoured vehicles, rocket and howitzer artillery and a large number of troops. The attack caused considerable destruction and claimed casualties among the civilian population, and a number of villages in Agdam and Agjabedi districts were captured.

On 14 June, the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia began a large-scale offensive against the villages of Shelli, Marzili, Yusifchanly, Chinli, Eni Garalar, Alichanly and the town of Agdam. By 1200 hours local time on 14 June, there was fighting on the approaches to the villages of Alimadatli and Chinli of Agdam district.

On the same day, the Armenian armed forces undertook an offensive against the villages of Akop-Kamari and Magavuz of Agdere district of the Azerbaijani Republic. The district centre of Agdere is being subjected to systematic artillery shelling.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan notes that the latest offensive by the Armenian side is not accidental. It confirms at least two circumstances about which Azerbaijan in its appeals has long warned the international community, unfortunately without success. The first is Armenia's unwillingness and unreadiness to seek ways of reaching a peaceful settlement of the conflict and, as a consequence, its reliance on military might. Secondly, in view of the reaction of leading States and international public opinion, Armenia feels that it can act with impunity and, hence, it wishes to continue its policy of territorial expansion, which has become a State policy.

Moreover, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan draws attention to the fact that the latest offensive by the Armenian side is taking place at a time when an advance observer group from the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) is prepared to arrive in pursuance of Security Council resolution 822 (1993) of 30 April 1993. The offensive is taking place at a time when the United States of America, Russia and Turkey have twice come forward with peace initiatives, and the CSCE "nine-plus-one" group has proposed a "schedule of urgent measures", to which Azerbaijan has given an affirmative reply.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan considers that it is difficult to show one's cynical disregard for the international community's peace efforts more blatantly than Armenia is now doing.

Azerbaijan has long awaited effective measures on the part of prestigious international organizations to restrain the aggressor. General declarations and calls for an end to hostilities no longer do anyone any good. Such an attitude towards the aggressor and his victim gives us the impression that a policy of "double standards" is being employed in an effort to pacify the aggressor; this can undermine the peace process and have doleful consequences.

Azerbaijan once again appeals to the Security Council, CSCE and international public opinion to impose the relevant sanctions under the Charter of the United Nations against Armenia as the aggressor State, forcing it to end its persistent frustration of peace initiatives, and to create a real mechanism for implementing the decisions that have been taken.

Baku, 14 June 1993